

Student Name: Elizabeth Hall

Age: 13

No Water, No Practice

My whole life I have been studying to becoming a rural veterinarian. Water is crucial in my future practice for these three reasons: animals need water live, IV medication supplies, and to sterilize equipment. Patient care is critical for a successful veterinarian practice. Ensuring my patients have enough clean water to drink keeps them hydrated, an important aspect of patient care. Lacking clean water would cause my patients to become dehydrated and could possibly suffer kidney failure, even death in extreme cases.

Without clean water, manufactures of IV solutions could not produce the proper amount needed for emergency care. Treating a patient with an IV medication would be more difficult due to the high demand of medical supplies. If a patient is already dehydrated, their veins start to shrink which make it harder to get IV medication in the bloodstream. This time delay could result in the patient's life or death.

Sterilizing and cleaning my equipment is paramount to a successful practice. When I use a piece of equipment, I need to sterilize it before and after use. Without water, I would not be able to run my autoclave to sterilize my instruments. Proper sterilizing and clean ensures other patients do not pass diseases and parasites to other pets and owners. Having an unsanitary environment would make my patients become ill and catch fecal borne parasites, such Giardia, and Hookworms, just to name a few.

Keeping my patients hydrated, ensure I have enough medical supplies, and the ability to clean my equipment is a fundamental key for a thriving veterinary practice. Thankfully, we have clean water and with luck, you'll see me in 15 years as a rural veterinarian treating all animals, big and small.